

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

THOMPSON, Mike (Democrat)
Representative, 1st District, California
Elected 1998 to 106th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: St. Helena, California - 24 January 1951

Home: St. Helena, California

Marital status: Married (Janet) - 2 children

Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Univ of Calif, Chico, BA 1982; MA, 1996

Military: US Army, 1969-73 ; served in Vietnam as SSgt/platoon leader with 173rd Airborne Brigade; earned Purple Heart; instructor at Army's Airborne School

Profession: Vintner; winery maintenance supervisor; college instructor

Political: California Senate, 1990-98. Defeated Mark Luce (R) in 1998 general election with 62% of the vote to succeed Rep Frank Riggs (R) who retired. Reelected in 2000 with 65% of the vote and in 2002 with 64%.

Rep Thompson is a moderate known for building coalitions across party lines. Belongs to both the Blue Dogs and New Democrat Coalition, caucuses of fiscal conservatives and moderates, respectively. Represents California's Napa Valley wine region. While considered a populist in the area of health care, is much more conservative on crime issues. In the state legislature he helped write legislation to fight street gangs in rural communities.

In the 106th Congress, voiced concern over HASC report language prohibiting use of FY00 funds for combat or peacekeeping operations in Yugoslavia; voiced dissatisfaction with Cmte's failure to repeal the ban on abortion in overseas military hospitals; had courtesy call 7 Oct 99 with Lt Gen Oelstrom, AF Academy Superintendent, who discussed key BOV issues including academics, accreditation, women/minority cadet opportunities and military training. Sponsored resolution honoring the members of the Armed Forces and Federal civilian employees who served the Nation during the Vietnam.

In the 107th Congress urged the Air Force to conduct C-5 re-engining tests on both A and B models, joined several others in attempting to restore \$104.5M in C-5 upgrade (Avionics Modernization – AMP; Reliability Enhancement and Re-engining Program – RERP) monies cut from the FY02 DoD approps, pressured DoD to release more information about chemical and biological agent tests conducted with US military personnel during the 1960's, and characterized DoD's reluctance to release such information as deplorable. Served as a member of the Mexico-US Interparliamentary Group.

Prior to 108th Congress, represented Travis AFB.

Additional Background: Served as an instructor in public administration and state government at University of California at Chico. Member, Military Veterans' Caucus (co-chair).

AF Bases: Reserve Forces

COMMITTEES

ARMED SERVICES -- Subcs on Military Research and Development; Military Installations and Facilities

AGRICULTURE

BOARD OF VISITORS, US AIR FORCE ACADEMY -- 1999- 2002